Class Literature Portfolio

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Read4380

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Book: All of Me

Genre: Beginner Books

Citation: Bang, (2009). *All of Me,* New York: The Blue Sky Press

Grade Level: PreK-K

Awards: None

Summary: This is a child's first book, it's a book about giving thanks. He gives thanks to his oes, hands, nose, head and all that the head can do, eyes, ears, and heart. With each thanks he gives an example of what that part of his body does that he is thankful for.

Person Review: I saw this book amazing that it was thanks for ourselves, our ears, nose and so on, instead of toys and material things. It's a good book to read to children to show what is really important to be thankful for. The book also had beautiful illustrations. The illustrations look like parts of the picture were drawn in crayon.

Book: Cat and Mouse

Genre- Beginner Books, Poetry, Nursery Rhymes

Citation: Schoenherr, (2008). *Cat and Mouse*, Greenville Books and imprint of Harper Collins Publishers

Grade Level K-3

Award: Was chosen as one of New York Public Library's 100 titles for ready

Summary: This beginners book has very large illustration and incorporates two nursery rhymes, "Hickory Dickory Dock" , Eeny, Meeny, Miney Mo, and "I Love Little Pussy". When it is not written in nursery rhymes it is poetry. The mouse seemed to tease the cat and they were connected with the nursery rhymes and the poetry

Personal Review: This book has huge illustrations. The author uses three nursery rhymes to show the cat and mouse's interaction, for example, "Hickory Dickory Dock" shows the mouse running up the grandfather clocks chain and the cat running up the clock after the mouse, the cat is hanging on to the top of the clock by his claws, when the clock struck one, the mouse fell down (the mouse always had an umbrella like the ones you find in cocktails) so he would just float right down safe and sound, while the cat would jump with a bang and chase the mouse into the mouse hole. Each nursery rhyme and poem shows the really nice relationship of the cat and mouse, even though the cat was the one who really exerted himself in the play time. But the ending showed the love the mouse had for his kitty friend by giving him a bowl of milk, the last line is "And kitty will love me because I am good."

Book: Baby Bear Sees Blue

Genre: Picture Book

Citation: Wolff, A. (2012) *Baby Bear Sees Blue*. New York. Beach Land Books

Awards: five

Grade Level: PreK-K

Summary: As Baby Bear and his mother go through the forest Baby Bear Asks questions. "Who is warming me momma?" "Who is waving to me momma?" Momma Bear answers all Baby Bears questions throughout the book. The book is beautifully illustrated. This book is a great book to teach your children in a simple way.

Personal Review: This is a great book to teach children PreK-K because every question Baby Bear asks Momma Bear answers and they are all questions that are important for a young child to be aware of, like, "Who is warming me Momma?' Momma Bear says, "That's the sun" and goes on to specify that the sun is yellow. Another example is "Who is waving to me Momma?" and Momma Bear says, " That is an oak tree." There are about eight or nine different questions that Baby Bear asks. They are things that Baby Bear feels or sees and when teaching small children this is a good way to make them relate to the question.

Book: Daisy and the Beastie

Genre: Picture Book

Citation: Simmons, J. (2000). *Daisy and the Beastie*. Great Britain Orchard Books

Grade Level: PreK-2 Ages 3-7

Awards: a total of 8

Summary: Daisy and her duckling brother visit Grandpa on his farm. Grandpa tells Daisy and Pip a story about a mysterious Beastie, Grandpa falls asleep so Daisy and Pip go looking for Beastie. They go through all the farm animals homes until they finally fine Beastie. Three little kittens.

Personal Review: This book has incredible illustrations. It looks as if every page has been oil painted. The story is about two siblings ducks who go looking for Grandpa's mysterious Beastie. it is this great adventure so the child you are reading it to goes on this adventure also. The book takes Daisy and her brother Pip through every animal home all the while teaching the reader what each animal does in the farm, and what sounds the animals make, for example the Cow goes "Moo". The bee goes " Buzz" and pigs go "oink oink". Another great ;picture book for learning.

Book: Hot or Cold

Simon, S (1972). *Let's-Try-It-Out Hot or Cold*, New York: McGraw Hill

Genre: Juvenile Literature, Juvenile Works

Grade Level: 2-5

Summary: Presents simple experiments illustrating the characteristics of hot and cold.

Personal Review: Simon goes into detail teaching what clothes to wear for hot and cold, how hot and cold travels through different objects , for example how heat goes through a cooking pot verses a wooden spoon. By reading this book children can find out about different aspects of hot and cold. Like on a really cold day which bench would be more comfortable to sit on a metal bench or a wooden bench. I enjoyed the way Simon presents many very simple experiments and projects for children. For example, the way water freezes and ice melts. As children do these projects they have the opportunity to make discoveries for themselves.

Book: The Beginning of the Earth

Branley, F.M., (1972) *The Beginning of the Earth*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company

Genre: Juvenile Literature

Grade Level K-3, ages 5-8

Summary: Describes the beginning of the Earth, from the formations of the planets out of dust and gas clouds to formation of continents of Earth.

Personal Review: These are fantastic books, after reading this one I research Branley and he has written several books on science in an easy way to understand. The illustrations are very memorizing all while explaining in such a simple way one of the most difficult phenomena's to understand. He makes it interesting because he writes it in a way the reader does not get lost in the complexity of the content. I would recommend these books highly.

Book: The Age of Innocence

Citation: Wharton, E. (2004) *The Age of Innocence*, New York. Published by Barnes and Nobel.

Genre: Young Adult Fiction

Award: 1921 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

Grade Level:

Summary: Wharton’s The Age of Innocence is romance story staged in the 1800’s when Society separated people by wealth and breed. This story is about a man that is going to marry May a very shy and introverted girl, but has the society level that he is expected to marry. May has a cousin name Ellen who is a countess by marriage but her husband The Count is very cruel and abusive and so Ellen leave Great Britain and file for divorce. Well of course her family tries to convince her not to divorce the Count obviously unaware of how abusive he is. Ellen meet Newland Archer May’s fiancé and there is a n immediate attraction but Ellen refuses to let anything become of this because of her love and respect for her cousin, although Newland feels so attracted to her he wants to speed up his marriage to May but May refuses. Once May realizes the attraction between her cousin and fiancé and decides to go ahead and move up the wedding. The family has also realized the attraction and decides Ellen needs to go back to England. Newland and May do get married but Newland never loves her in the way he loves Ellen. Newland and May have two children a boy Dallas and a girl Mary. While nursing her third child back to health May dies and on her death bed she tells her son Dallas about the sacrifice that his father made for her honor. Dallas and Newland go to England; it has been 26 years since Newland had seen Ellen and he wanted to remember that love so he didn’t go see her.

Personal Review: This was a beautiful love story but of course we always want love stories to turn out where the ones in love fall in love and stay in love forever. Not in this case, Newland marries the woman that society expects, has an OK life but always loves May’s cousin Ellen. During the story you see what Newland goes through to be with Ellen but she always refuses to have a one-time affair because of her love for her cousin May. They do end up have one affair, but the family sends her away and May and Newland go on with their life and she goes on and does well with hers. I thought the author did a fantastic job writing this book and I think I will read more of her books. Life is not always the way we expect and this story shows how.

Book: Parrot In The Oven

Citation: Martinez, V. (1998) *Parrot In the Oven*, Carmel, California. Harper Collins Children’s

Genre: Teen Fiction

Awards: National Book Award for Young People of America

Grade Level: 9-12

Summary: Martinez tells a story much like his life and the environment that he grew up around. The protagonist is Manny a fourteen year old young man that lives in a dysfunctional home, his father is an out of work alcoholic that says people are like money, there are million dollar people, thousand dollar people and hundred dollar people. He would say that he was a penny. His brother went from one job to another and seemed to be following in his father’s footsteps. His mother was busy cleaning cleaning cleaning thinking that everything would just be fine if everything sparkled. His sister is the only one that brings money into the house but does not have the guidance from her mother about when to have sex and ends up pregnant with Manny helping her during a miscarriage. Manny fired off a shot gun one time and almost killed his little brother. Manny sees no other way to be part of a family except to join a gang. But there was goodness about Manny and the gang idea did not take hold of him for long. That’s not what Manny wants for himself. For his future.

Personal Review: Many young adults or teenagers could relate to this book. It’s a young man, Manny who is raised in a dysfunctional home and a very poor neighborhood. His father is an unemployed drunk and his brother not far behind. As you read the pages, even I raised many years ago could relate to a lot of the way Manny felt searching for who he was, for his identity. Without a role model to do this so no other choice in order to feel part of a family was to join a gang, but Manny was a good soul and made the decision not to go down that path. One of the parts of the book I really enjoyed that I have never seen another author do is the foot notes at the bottom of each page explaining the lingo he used for example, splashed meant pulled, full of cement meant not being able to move. And all these different phrases were bolded on the page.

Book: all the broken pieces

Citation: Burg, A.E. (2009) *all the broken pieces,* Scholastic Press

Genre: Poetry

Awards: Best Book for Young Adults

Grade Level: 7-12

Summary: This book is written in a novel way of reading but in poetry stanza's. It is about a Vietnamese boy, Matt Pin who went through the Vietnam war. He saw his little two year old sisters legs blown off and saw more than any person should see especially a 10 year old boy. His mother sent him to America because his father was an American soldier. He was adopted by two wonder people who later had another son. His was always worried that his adoptive parents would not want him anymore especially after his little brother was born. His mother and father never gave him any reason to feel that way, but he did. His father taught him how to play baseball and he was an amazing pitcher, but some of the boys were real mean to him one in particular would tell him that it was his fault that his brother had died in the war. And they would call him names like frog face. One of his father's friends who had survived the Viet Nam war started taking Matt to some of the support meetings, Matt got to know some of the veterans. His coach, who is very fond of Matt, got very ill with cancer so one of the Viet Nam vets who was in a wheel chair became his coach. The new coach found a way to bring these two boys together by making them work together on a baseball project. It all ends where Matt and the boy who lost his brother in Viet Nam became pretty good friends and Matt was never afraid of losing his parents again.

Personal Review: Once I started reading this book I could not put it down. Of course I was born in 1953 so I am very familiar with the Vietnam war. I have a brother who survived the Vietnam war. Burg does such a fantastic job in writing this story. I could see where any teenager or young adult would surely benefit from reading this book, it explains what the Vietnamese people went through and our soldiers when they came home from the war. Our student's can't imagine what it was like or what any war is like. This book is easy to read and is very detailed in the love and feelings that each character has. I loved reading it and I have recommended it to several people already.

Book: A Light in the Attic

Citation: Silverstein, S. (1981) *A Light in the Attic,* New York, NY, HarperCollinsPublishers

Genre: Poetry

Grade Level: 7-12

Awards: Journals Best Books Award

Summary: A Light in the Attic is a book of 168 pages of poems and amazing illustrations. Silverstein writes some of the funniest, silliest poems but yet everyone could relate to every single one of them. Some of them people might think are not appropriate for all children and that is why they are recommend for pre-teen and teenagers and on up. Some of the poems were just unbelievable. It will amaze the reader that an author like Silverstein can come up with so many fantastic and entertaining poems. The only way to explain the book would be to give some examples of the names of the poems, *Adventures of a Frisbee, Overdues, Snap!, Crowded tub.* And everyone of these poems has a marvelous illustration, some are absolutely hilarious

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Personal Review: This book was absolutely a pleasure for me to read. Never ending hilarious illustrations and poetry. It can remind most anyone reading it that one of these poems might had been an experience that he might have experienced. It's not a book that would teach a student anything but to love to read, because it is so funny and the illustrations are so entertaining that you can't put it down so the reader is learning poetry and to read fluently, and of course sometimes you have to read the poem twice to understand it.

Book: The Giver

Citation: Lowry,L (1993. *The Giver.* New York: Dell Laurel-Leaf

Genre: Fantasy

Interest Level: 3rd

Awards: 1994 Newberry Medal and has sold over 5.3 million copies

Summary: Lowry's The Giver is set in a society which is at first presented as a utopian society and gradually appears more and more dystopian. The book is about a boy named Jonas through the age of twelve. The society has eliminated pain and strife by converting to "Sameness" a plan that has also eradicated any emotion he might have. Jonas is selected to be the "Receiver of Memory" this is the person who stores all the past memories before "Sameness". Then Jonas meets *The Giver. The Giver*  is able to break some rules so Jonas becomes very confused. He faces a big decision, does he stay in this safe community or does he run away in pursuit of a life of love, differences, choices and knowledge, but danger also.

Personal Preview: A man name Jonas lives in a utopian community with no pain or fear. Whatever he needs to get by, it all is given to him, and not only that, his decisions too are made for him. Then when he turned twelve he was chosen to begin training with *The Giver*. the overall meaning of Jonas 's training is to expose the truth about the world and utopian community, and in the end Jonas has a huge decision to make. This book is good to use in a whole class reading for inference lessons, because together the class can discuss and analyze what they think the story is going to be about.

Book: Peter Pan

Citation: Disney, R (2007). *Walt Disney's Peter Pan (Disney Peter Pan*, Florida: Golden Disney

Genre: Fantasy

Grade Level: 6th

Awards: ?

Summary: This is a story of an action that is about to take place "has happened before", and will happen again." Wendy is telling her brothers the story of Peter Pan, while her parents are getting ready to go out for the night. Her father who was angry and said that Wendy was too old to be staying with the boys in the nursery and that she will stay in a room of her own. That night the are visited by Peter Pan himself, who teaches them to fly with the help of his friend Tinker Bell, and takes them to the land of Never Land. Peter Pan is being sought out by the evil Pirate Captain Hook. This book takes the reader on a great adventure of good and evil, at the end the children's parents return home from the party to find Wendy not in her bed, but sleeping a the open window. The parents look out the window and see what looks like a pirates ship. Mr. Darling softens his decision on Wendy not sleeping in the nursery, he recognizes the ship from his own childhood.

Personal Review: One night when Wendy was telling her two younger brothers a story of a boy named Peter Pan, out of the blue he appears. Peter Pan takes Wendy and her brothers on a little adventure, and on this adventure they come across some very friendly people, also a mean man

This man was a pirate who had taken this girl and the group of kids, Peter follows them to help save her, but end up being taken as well. Great for enhancing young readers, this will not only keep them entertained, but also help them improve their reading by challenging them a little with more words. I must have seen this dozens of times as a young girl, I was born in 1953 so I have read and seen many versions of this fantastic fantasy.

Book: Anne Frank, The Diary of A Young Girl

Citation: Frank, A (2003). *Anne Frank's tales from the secret annex*, New York. Bantam

Genre: Non- Fiction

Awards: Yalsa Best Book for Young Adults and unfortunately Anne Frank never received any awards for her book personally, but the book has won many awards.

Grade Level: 6th

Summary: The Diary of A Young Girl by Anne Frank details approximately two years of the life a Jewish teenager during World War II. During much of the time period covered by her journal, Anne and her family are in hiding in an attempt to escape Hitler's ant-Jewish laws and genocidal desires. Anne's diary end abruptly in August, of 1944. On that day she and her family are taken into custody by the German and transported to concentration camps. Anne shows her life before and after the hiding. She was a normal, adorable teenager with all the wants and desires that all teenagers have.

Personal Review: Anne Frank had the first-hand experience of what life was once like in the early 1940's. Anne and her faily do what they could to hide away from the Nazi's who were taking all Jews to the concentration camps, where they were mistreated horribly. Anne documented what things were like on her journey day by day and how she had to live in fear of ever being caught. The family goes through frightening fights and threats with the other family they were hiding with, and do the best to keep calm. Then one day their fear fell deeper when they meet eye to eye with the enemy. This book is good to use in a high school history class, also a English class. Not only will students learn about past history, but also an English class. Not only will students learn about past history, but also get the feeling of being in that characters shoes and understand the story more in a different perspective. A great book for teenagers.

Book: Breaking Night

Citation: Murray, L. (2010. *Breaking Night*. New York: Hyperion

Genre: Non-Fiction

Grade Level: 9th

Awards: Has won many awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize.

Summary: *Breaking Night* is a memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray lived in the Bronx, was born to loving parents but they were addicted to drugs. Liz was taunted at school for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair, eventually she had skipped so many classes she was put into a girl's home. At age 15 Liz found herself living on the streets. When Liz's mother dies from AIDS she decides to take control of her own life and go back to high school, often doing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Against all odds Liz graduates at the top of her class and enters Harvard University.

Person Review: Growing up with unstable family, fifteen year old Liz Murray soon ends up on the streets with no one to care for her. Liz's parents are both drug addicts who love her, but yet a can't seem to get better for their daughter. After Liz's mother dies from AIDS, she takes matters into her own hands. Liz goes back to high school finishes early, and with all of her hard work she gets into one of the biggest colleges out there, Harvard. Although this is a sad book, it is good for students to read and see that no matter where you come from you can make it somewhere. This book can be used in an English class where you have students write a paper reflecting on their story and how it compares to Liz's story. There a lot of kids in this area that can relate to Liz.